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(19) (CA) **APPLICATION FOR CANADIAN PATENT** (12)

(54) Method for Field Programming an Electronic Parking Meter

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(57) 1 Claim

Notice: This application is as filed and may therefore contain an incomplete specification.

**Canada**

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2097099

ABSTRACT

05      An electronic parking meter is programmable in the field, in order to provide flexibility and adaptability to future conditions, by partitioning its software program into two independent modules, the smaller of which controls the replacement by a new program module of the other module or of itself.

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for field programming an electronic parking meter, comprising:

- 05           (a) controlling data processing means of said parking meter by means of separate first and second program modules;
- 10           (b) providing a predetermined interrupt signal to said data processing means;
- (c) causing said data processing means to request a third program module in response to said predetermined interrupt;
- 15           (d) said first program module causing said data processing means to store said third program module; and
- 20           (e) causing said data processing means to replace one of said first and second program modules with said third program module.

METHOD FOR FIELD PROGRAMMING AN ELECTRONIC PARKING METER

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

05       The present invention relates to parking meters in  
general, and in particular to electronic parking meters.  
More particularly still, it relates to field  
programmable, and reprogrammable, parking meters.

2. Prior Art of the Invention

10       United Kingdom Patent application GB 2 077 475  
published December 16, 1981 discloses a vehicle parking  
meter which differs from previous mechanically operated  
meters in that the coin registration, timing, and  
display functions are performed wholly by electronic  
15       circuitry. Preferred form of display is of the liquid  
crystal type.

20       The power consumption of the apparatus is very low  
as it consists predominantly of CMOS circuitry and power  
is provided by a battery whose charge is maintained by  
light-activated solar cells.

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Functions additional to those provided by mechanical meters are provided and include cash totalization, cash display, settable parking charge per hour, settable parking periods, and provision for providing digital information from the meter to an external data-recording device.

Embodiments are described incorporating the RCA 1802 and RCA 1804 microprocessor together with peripheral circuitry.

United States patent number 4,823,928 issued April 25, 1989 to Speas discloses an electronic parking meter system for receiving at least one type of coin or other payment device and having an electronic parking meter and an auditor. The electronic parking meter comprises a power source which may be a solar type power source, as well as, having terminals for connection to an external source of power. The meter also has a microprocessor with a memory connected to the power supply. An electronic display is connected to the microprocessor and displays pertinent information for the meter. The auditor may be connected to the

25

microprocessor in the electronic meter by means of a direct cable link or by infrared transmission. The electronic parking meter system may have a sonar range finder connected to the microprocessor in the meter which detects the presence or absence of a vehicle in an associated parking space with the parking meter.

05

Both of the above prior art documents are incorporated herein by reference.

10

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention endeavors to provide a flexible, software controlled, parking meter. In order to be flexible, the meter must be able to accommodate changes in the coins it will accept after it has been in use in the field. It is also advantageous to be able to update or correct software "bugs" in the field. It is, therefore, a feature of the present parking meter that software can be "downloaded" into it, preferably by wireless data communication, for example by means of intra-red (IR) receive and transmit channels.

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Accordingly, the present invention provides a method for field programming an electronic parking meter comprising: (a) controlling data processing means of said parking meter by means of separate first and second  
05 program modules; (b) providing a predetermined interrupt signal to said data processing means; (c) causing said data processing means to request a third program module in response to said predetermined interrupt; (d) said  
10 first program module causing said data processing means to store said third program module; and (e) causing said data processing means to replace one of said first and second program modules with said third program module.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

15

The preferred embodiment of the present invention will now be described in conjunction with annexed drawings, in which:

20

Figure 1 is an overall block diagram of the parking meter of the present invention;

Figure 2 is a block diagram of the block labelled ASIC in Figure 1;

05 Figure 3 is a block diagram of the communication interface of Figure 2;

Figure 4 is a high level flow-chart of the overall software of the parking meter;

10 Figure 5 is a flow-chart of the block labelled "Service IR Interrupt" in Figure 4; and

Figure 6 is a flow-chart of the block labelled "Download Software" in Figure 4.  
15

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring to Figure 1 of the drawings, the parking  
20 meter comprises an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC) 10, communicating via DATA and ADDRESS buses with a central processor (CPU) 11, a programmable memory (EEPROM) 12, and a random access memory (RAM) 13.

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The ASIC 10 also receives inputs from a coin shute 14 re  
position, size and mass of a coin passing through; and  
receives and transmits serial data SDIN and SDOUT,  
respectively, from infra-red receiver (IR RCV) 15 and  
05 infra-red transmitter (IR TX) 16. A voltage regulator  
and controller (REG) 17 generates voltages  $V_{AA}$  and  $V_{DD}$   
from battery voltage  $V_{CC}$ .  $V_{AA}$  is necessary for powering  
the ASIC 10, while  $V_{DD}$  powers the CPU 11, EEPROM 12 and  
RAM 13.  $V_{CC}$  directly powers the IR transmitter 16 as  
10 well as red and yellow LEDs 18 and 19. The ASIC 10  
drives the liquid crystal displays (front and back) LCD0  
and LCD1.

Figure 2 shows a block diagram of the ASIC 10,  
15 which comprises an address bus interface 20, a time-base  
clock 21 controlled by a 3.58 MHz crystal, a real-time  
clock (RTC) 22 controlled by a micro-power (watch)  
32.768 KHz crystal, an LCD display driver 23, a  
programmable In/Out bus 24, a local RAM 25, a CPU  
20 interrupt controller 26, an event counter 27, a coin  
discrimination interface 28, a universal asynchronous  
receiver/transmitter (UART) 29, and an IR communications  
interface 30. All of the above are conventional units,

whose functions could also be implemented by means of software but are more economically implemented by means of an ASIC.

05           Figure 3 illustrates the interface of the IR communications interface 30 with other components. It comprises a modulator 31 and demodulator 32, a base-band selector 33, and a modulation detector 34, (which is strobed by an 8 millisecond window from the RTC 22 at a  
10           rate selectable from 1, 2, 8 or 32 Hz, in order to save power).

          Figure 4 shows a flow chart of the overall system software, while Figures 5 and 6 show details of the  
15           blocks labelled "Service IR Interrupt" and "Download Software", respectively. In order to be able to field program the parking meters, the software has been divided into two distinct units: the "bootstrap software" and the "application software". Both may be  
20           replaced in the field under the control of the existing bootstrap software. Thus for purposes of the present invention the bootstrap software is the essential unit. The application software serves as the interface between

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the electronic parking meter (EPM) and the user, and should, therefore, be written in a high level language (such as C) in order to be easily altered to suit differing applications. The bootstrap software, on the other hand, is a low-level program which serves as the interface between the EPM hardware and the application software.

The bootstrap is always the first program to run whenever the EPM goes from "sleep" into operational mode. In general, the primary job of the bootstrap is to quickly jump to the application software if it is present, however, if the application is not present, then the bootstrap will attempt to perform a download of application software.

When the bootstrap is invoked, it first initializes the stack pointer and tests a SLEEP indicator bit in the CPU STATUS CONTROL register to determine if the cause of the wake up was due to an interrupt (SLEEP bit is set) or to a manual EPM reset (SLEEP bit is clear). If the SLEEP bit is set, the bootstrap tests the application version byte for zero or non-zero to determine if

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application software is present in the EPM. A non-zero version byte will cause the bootstrap to enter the application software, otherwise, the bootstrap assumes control of the EPM. If the SLEEP bit was clear on entry to the bootstrap, the bootstrap initializes the EPM I/O ports and serial port, and assumes control of the EPM.

When the bootstrap assumes control of the EPM, it immediately loads a software download utility into RAM and enters it. Placing the download utility into RAM permits downloading of either bootstrap or application into the EEPROM since software is not executing from EEPROM. The download utility will attempt to download new EPM software (either bootstrap or application) provided a remote terminal is requesting communications with the EPM. Once software is loaded or the communications link is removed the download utility will exit back to the bootstrap. The bootstrap will then retest the application version byte and enter the application if the version byte is non-zero. Otherwise, the bootstrap will enable automatic serial port sampling, display "E001" and enter sleep mode.

- 10 -

The process of downloading software requires the use of two basic communication functions: put packet() and get packet(). Both functions transfer data through the serial port in a consistent format to be referred to as a packet. Details on packet format are described in Table 1 below. The put packet() routine assembles and transmits packets of data based on the length and address of the data field passed to it by the calling function. The get packet() routine polls the serial receiver looking for a valid packet of data. It will poll the receiver until it receives a valid packet, an erroneous packet, loses the communication link or times out. If a valid packet of data was received, get packet() will use a pointer passed by the calling function to store the data. The calling function will receive status information when get packet() returns to determine if it was successful.

Table 1 - Packet Format

	<u>Byte Number</u>	<u>Content</u>
	0	SYNC
	1	STX
05	2	Packet Length (LSB)
	3	Packet Length (MSB)
	4	Packet Type
	5	Packet Sequence
	6	Start of Data Field
10	N	End of Data Field
	N+1	Checksum
	N+2	ETX

15 Notes:

1. Packet length and checksum includes bytes 4 to N.
- 20 2. Packet types are either BOOTSTRAP or APPLICATION.
3. Packet sequences always starts at zero.

25 The EPM always show "dddd" on its LCD display while the download utility is operating. The general philosophy of the communications between a remote terminal and the EPM is that the EPM software always initiates data transfers. Therefore, the EPM download utility starts a software download procedure by transmitting "request-for-software" control packets on a regular basis and waiting for a response. The remote

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terminal responds with a "software-initiation" packet that contains information such as software type, start address and the length (in packets and in bytes) of the software to be downloaded. The download utility  
05 extracts this information and then asks for each packet of software in succession. As each software packet is being received the data is temporarily stored in RAM so it can be sumchecked before committing it to EEPROM. If the sumcheck fails the packet, it will be requested  
10 again. During this time, the EPM will display "ddxx" where "xx" is the number of packets left to be downloaded. After all packets are received, the download utility will exit back to the bootstrap.

15 If the software to be downloaded is bootstrap, the number of software packets for the download must be one. This is done to prevent the possibility of a communications link disruption from leaving a partially  
loaded bootstrap in the EPM. As a result, the entire  
20 bootstrap code (1024 bytes or less) will be safely loaded into the EPM RAM before updating is carried out. It should also be noted that new bootstrap will void any application that may have been present in the EPM.

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Application software can be downloaded with a variable number of packets of variable length. While each packet is sumchecked before it is written to EEPROM, there is a final sumcheck performed on the entire application code in the EEPROM after download is complete. If the code is verified, the download utility will update the application version byte and return to the bootstrap, otherwise, it will restart the download procedure. Should the communications link be removed any time after a download is started, the download utility will clear the application version byte and exit back to the bootstrap.

The bootstrap code which includes the utilities discussed above along with several support functions occupies not more than the first 1024 bytes of the EEPROM. The functions which have been included in the bootstrap are shared by the bootstrap and application. Independence of bootstrap and application is maintained by requiring the application to use a jump table located in the bootstrap to use the bootstrap functions. All shared functions in the bootstrap have been written so that they abide by standard "C" calling conventions:



	disable watchdog code()	- disables watchdog timer circuit
05	getpacket code(timeout, *buffer)	- gets a packet from the serial port
	go to sleep code (interrupt mask)	- puts the EPM into sleep mode
10	initialize uart code()	- initializes the UART
	lcdputhex code(hexval)	- displays "hexval" in hex on the EPM
15	memcpy code(*source, *dest, length)	- copies "length" bytes from src to dest
	putpacket code(packet len, *buffer)	- transmits a packet out the serial port
20	reset watchdog code()	- enable watchdog timer circuit

25

A full pseudo code source listing for the bootstrap software is given in the following fourteen pages.

30

A suitable hand-held device for wireless (intra-  
 35 red) communication with the parking meter is comprised  
 of a PSION ORGANISER II, made by Psion (Psionhouse,  
 Harcourt Street, London W1H 1DT, England) together with  
 40 a EXTECH IR COMMS LINK (Part Numbers 767321, 767322,  
 767324) made by Extech Instruments Corporation (335 Bear  
 45 Hill Road, Waltham MA 02154).

File BS :

Routine download\_software :

```
05    Load interrupt mask with correct bits
      Call lcdputhex      to display download status

      Label ask_for_control_packet :

10    Load request packet with data
      Call request_and_receive_packet

      If return value was negative
15        - Jump to ask_for_control_packet

      Else if return value was 0
        - Jump exit_no_download

      Else if received packet not correct length
20        - Jump to ask_for_control_packet

      Else if received packet not correct type
        - Jump to ask_for_control_packet

25    Else if received packet not correct sequence
        - Jump to ask_for_control_packet

      Else if going to receive bootstrap and not just 1 block
30        - Jump to ask_for_control_packet

      Else if battery low
        - Jump to ask_for_control_packet

35    Label set_up_for_download:

      Setup pointer to EEPROM location
      Set packet counter to one
      Save current packet sequence

40    Label ask_for_next_data_packet :

      Call lcdputhex      to display status
      Call request_and_receive_packet

45    If return value negative
        - Jump ask_for_next_data_packet

      Else if return value zero
50        - Jump exit_download_fail

      Else if not correct packet type
        - Jump ask_for_control_packet

      Else if not correct sequence
55        - Jump ask_for_next_packet

      Increment packet counter
```

Label received\_next\_data\_packet :

Setup number of bytes and memory location to read & write  
Call do\_eeprom\_write to copy data to EEPROM

05

If still more packets  
- Jump ask\_for\_next\_data\_packet

10

If downloaded bootstrap code  
- Jump bs\_download\_ok

Setup length, addresses and checksum  
Call verify\_eeprom

15

If checksum not zero  
- Jump ask\_for\_control\_packet

Label write\_version :

20

Setup memory address  
Call do\_eeprom\_write to write data to eeprom  
Clear sleep bit

25

Label exit\_no\_download :

Return to caller

Label exit\_download\_fail :

30

Clear version information  
Jump write\_version

Label bs\_download\_ok :

35

Jump to address 0000H

{-----}

40

Routine do\_eeprom\_write :

Set eeprom write enable line  
Calculate page boundary  
If number of bytes < 256  
- Jump check\_lsb

45

Label go\_to\_write\_page:

Load number of bytes to page boundary  
Jump write\_page

50

Label check\_lsb:

If number of bytes => page boundary  
- Jump got\_to\_write\_page

55

Else  
- Jump write\_page

60

{-----}

## Routine page\_mode :

```

    If bytes > 255
      - Jump max_page_write
05
    Else if bytes = 0
      - Jump exit_page_mode

    Else if bytes < 32
10      - Jump write_page

    Label max_page_write:

    Set bytes to write to 32
15
    Label write_page :

    If not finished
      - Jump write_page
20

    Label wait_for_write_cycle :

    If bit 7 at both source and destination not the same
      - Jump wait_for_write_cycle
25

    Else
      - Decrement counters

    Jump page_mode
30

    Label exit_page_mode:

    Return
35 {-----}

```

## Routine bootstrap :

```

    Setup start of ram
    If sleep bit clear
40      - Jump bootstrap_control

    Label epm_software_exists? :

    If Call check_version returns zero
45      - Jump go_get_software

    Label jump_to_software:

    Jump to start of software (CSTARTUP in application listing)
50 {-----}

```

```

Routine bootstrap_control:

    Turn on LCD
    Setup IO data directions
05    Call initialize_uart_code
    Delay for hardware

    Label go_get_software :

10    Call init_ram_funcs
    Call download_software

    If Call check_version returns non-zero
    - Jump jump_to_software
15    Label bootstrap_ok :

    Call lcdputhex_code to indicate status

20    Label bootstrap_sleep :

    Call go_to_sleep_code

    {-----}
25    Routine check_version :

    Compare version in eeprom with passed parameter
    Return with zero flag status
30    {-----}

    Routine init_ram_funcs :

35    Initialize RAM routines and variables.
    Copy functions starting at 0000 to ram_func_end to ram.
    Return to caller

    {-----}
40    Routine request_and_receive_packet :

    Save address of packet we want to get.
    Load number of data bytes in request packet.
45    Call putpacket_code
    Retrieve address of packet to get.

    If Call getpacket_code for next packet not successful
    - Jump exit_no_kick
50    Else
    - Call reset_watchdog_code

    Label exit_no_kick:
55    Return to caller

    {-----}

```

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Routine verify\_eeprom :

```

    Save parameter checksum
    Calculate checksum from ram locations
05  Set carry flag by comparing
    Return to caller

```

```

{-----}

```

```

10  Address ram_func_buffer :
    declare 200H bytes

```

```

    Address request_packet :

```

```

15  Address request_type :
    declare 1 byte

```

```

    Address request_sequence :
    declare 1 byte

```

```

20  Address request_data :
    declare 17 byte

```

```

25  Address ctrl_type :
    declare 1 byte

```

```

    Address ctrl_sequence:
    declare 1 byte

```

```

30  Address dnld_start :
    declare 2 bytes

```

```

    Address version :
    declare 4 bytes
35

```

```

    Address dnld_length :
    declare 2 bytes

```

```

40  Address chksum :
    declare 1 byte

```

```

    Address dnld_type :
    declare 1 byte

```

```

45  Address num_packetsv:
    declare 1 byte

```

```

    Address data_packet :

```

```

50  Address data_type :
    declare 1 byte

```

```

    Address data_sequence :
    declare 1 byte

```

```

55  Address data :
    declare MAX_PACKET_LEN bytes

```

```

{-----}

```

File GET :

Routine g tpacket\_code :

```

05   Label get_SYNC:

      Turn on receive data enable bit.
      Turn on baud clock.

10   If Call check_abort... indicates abort
      - Jump exit_lost_link

      If Call packet_getc... gets no character
      - Jump exit_timeout

15   Else if character is not what's expected
      - Jump get_SYNC

      If Call check_abort... indicates abort
20   - Jump exit_lost_link

      If Call packet_getc... gets no character
      - Jump exit_timeout

25   Else if character is not what's expected
      - Jump get_SYNC

      If Call check_abort... indicates abort
30   - Jump exit_lost_link

      If Call packet_getc... gets no character
      - Jump exit_timeout

      Save character

35   If Call check_abort... indicates abort
      - Jump exit_lost_link

      If Call packet_getc... gets no character
40   - Jump exit_timeout

      Save character, now have length of expected data
      Setup pointers to where to store the data
      Initialize checksum value

45   Label get_next_byte :

      If Call check_abort... indicates abort
      - Jump exit_lost_link

50   If Call packet_getc... gets no character
      - Jump exit_timeout

      Update pointer to next location
55   Add character to checksum

      If more data left to get
      - Jump get_next_byte

```

```

Label get_check_sum :
    If Call check_abort, . . . indicates abort
    - Jump exit_lost_link
05
    If Call packet_getc . . . gets no character
    - Jump exit_timeout

    Save checksum we just got
10
    If Call check_abort, . . . indicates abort
    - Jump exit_lost_link

    If Call packet_getc, . . . gets no character
15
    - Jump exit_timeout

    Else if not expected character
    - Jump get_sync

    If calculated checksum and received checksum not the same
20
    - Jump exit_bad_chksum

    Jump exit_return

25
    Label exit_lost_link :

    Set status
    Jump exit_return

30
    Label exit_timeout :

    Set IO2 to output
    Drive IR enable from IO2
    Drive IR enable high.
35
    Delay for hardware
    Drive IR enable low.
    Drive IR enable from ASIC RXE line.
    Set status
    Jump exit_return
40

    Label exit_bad_chksum :

    Set status

45
    Label exit_return :

    Turn off receive data enable bit.
    Return to caller

50 {-----}

```



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Routine pack t\_getc :

Label check\_for\_data :

05 If no data in receive buffer  
- Jump check\_for\_timeout

Save new character  
10 Clear carry flag for success  
Jump exit

Label check\_for\_timeout :

15 If Call check\_abort(...) indicates abort  
- Jump exit

If not timed out yet  
Jump check\_for\_data

20 Set carry flag for failure

Label exit:

25 Return to caller

{-----}

30

File MEMCPY :

Routine memcpy\_code :

```
05      Clear carry flag
      Get address of last BS code space byte
      Subtract destination from it

      If illegal destination
10      - Jump exit_failure

      Call init_ram_funcs
      Call do_eeprom_write

15      Label exit_success :

      Load register with success for caller
      Return to caller

20      Label exit_failure:
      Load register with failure for caller
      Return to caller

25      {-----}
```

File PUT :

Routine putpacket\_code:

```

05   Turn on baud clock.

      If call packet_putc to send first character of packet fails
      - Jump exit_lost_link

10   If call packet_putc to send second character fails
      - Jump exit_lost_link

      If call packet_putc to send third character fails
      - Jump exit_lost_link

15   If call packet_putc to send fourth character fails
      - Jump exit_lost_link

      Initalize checksum value
      Start at first character to transmit

      Label while_buf_not_empty :

      If no characters left to do
25   - Jump exit

      Get next character from buffer

      If call packet_putc to send character fails
30   - Jump exit_lost_link

      Add to current checksum

      Jump while_buf_not_empty

35   Label exit :

      If call packet_putc to send checksum fails
      - Jump exit_lost_link

40   If call packet_putc to send last character fails
      - Jump exit_lost_link

      Load register to indicate success
45   Return to caller

      Label exit_lost_link :

50   Load register to indicate failure
      Return to caller

{-----}

```

Routine packet\_putc :

Delay for hardwar

05 Label buf\_not\_empty :

If call check\_abort indicates abort  
- Jump putc\_exit

10 Get status of serial register.  
Test transmit buffer empty.  
Wait for buffer to clear (previous char).  
Write char to transmit buffer

15 Label putc\_exit :  
Return to caller

{-----}

20 Routine check\_abort :

If coin\_interrupt or clock\_interrupt or Not IR interrupt  
- Return abort to caller

25 Return continue to caller

{-----}

File LCDHEX :

Routine lcdputhex\_code :

```

05  Retrieve digits from parameter
    Point to first LCD register
    Setup for first nibble

    Label next_hex_digit :

10  Retrieve current nibble (working left to right) from parameter
    Point to LCD character to display.
    Get LCD character to display from lookup table.
    Display it at the current LCD digit.
15  Point to next LCD display digit.
    Increment current nibble

    If nibble < 5
      - Jump next_hex_digit
20  Return to caller

```

{-----}

25 Address \_lcdhexchars :

Define variables for each digit 0..F

{-----}

30

File SLEEP :

Routine go\_to\_sleep\_code :

```

35  Call initialize_uart_code
    Mask on the correct interrupts
    Sleep with IR on, baud clock off.
    Make RXE the input to IO2
    Clear the sleep bit
40  Wait a bit for system
    Halt system

```

{-----}

45

File UART :

Routine initialize\_uart\_code :

```

    Setup uart with correct baud, parity etc.
50  Output character to uart's transmit register to initialize
    Delay for hardware to send start bit
    Return to caller

```

{-----}

55

File WATCHDOG :

Routine disabl \_watchdog\_cod :

05     Get curr nt byte value.  
       Set watchdog bits to disable value.  
       Disable watchdog.  
       Return to caller

10     {-----}

Routine reset\_watchdog\_code :

15     Call disable\_watchdog\_code(17)  
       Get current byte value.  
       Set watchdog bits to enable value.  
       Enable watchdog  
       Return to caller

20     {-----}

25

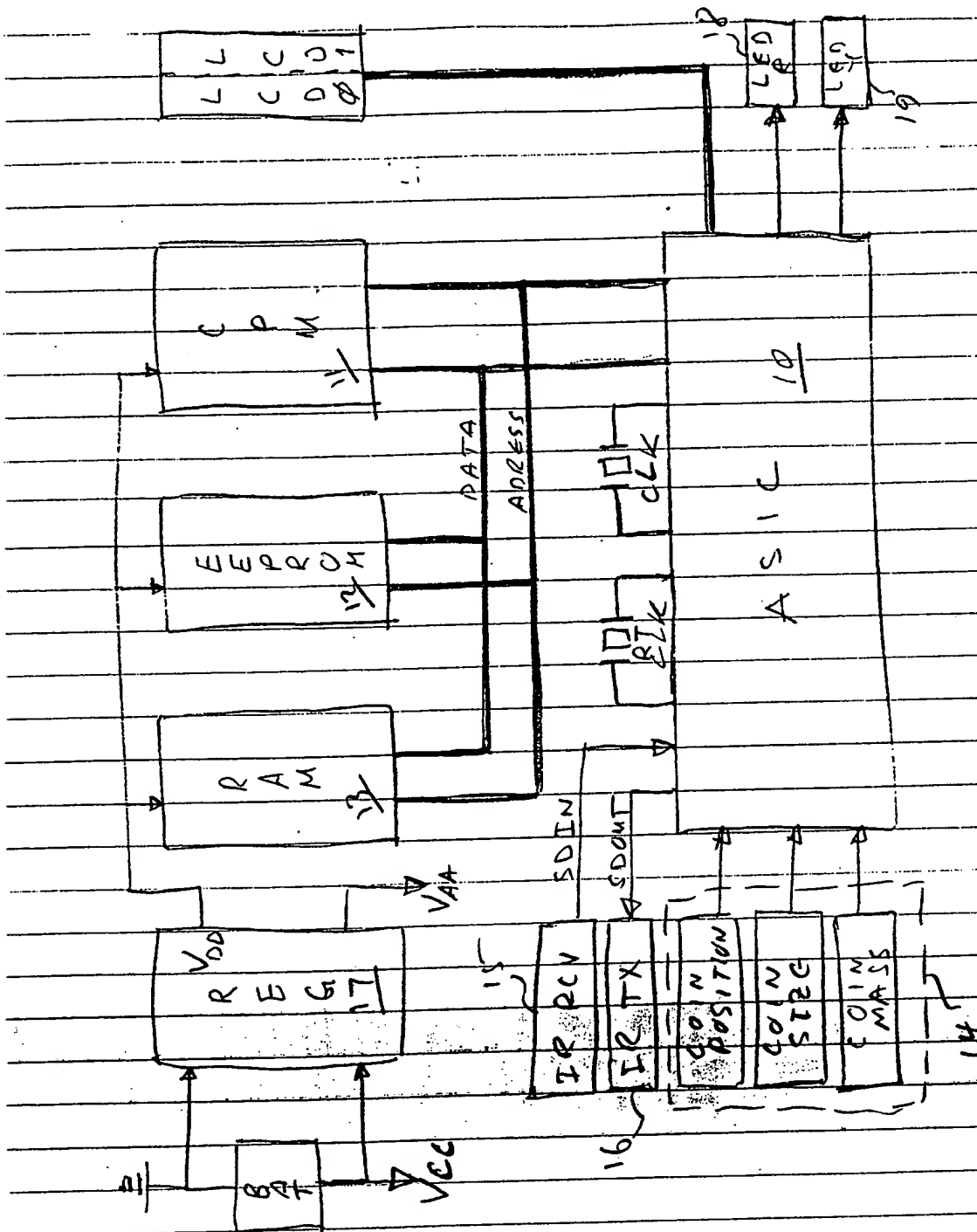


FIG. 1

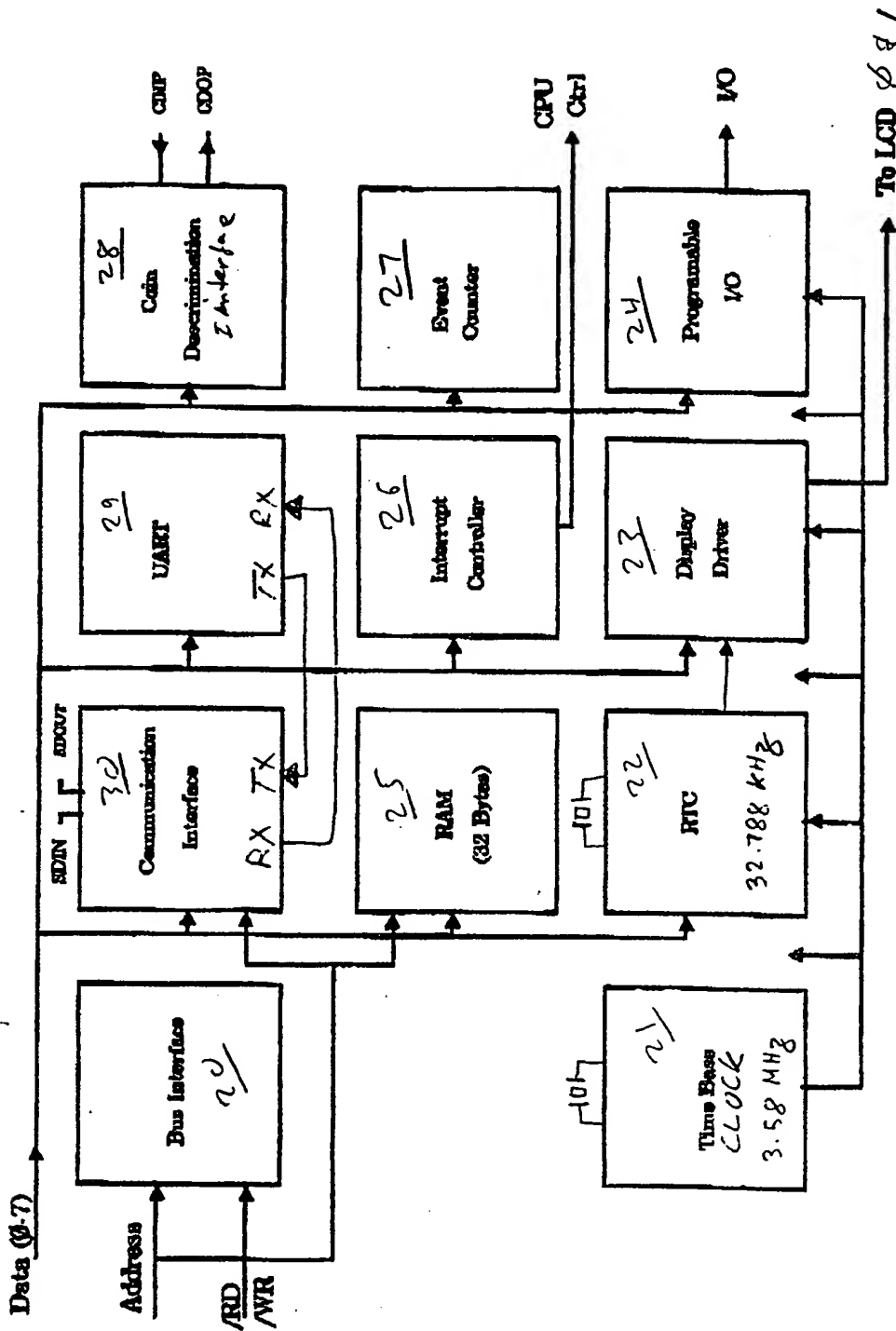


FIGURE 2



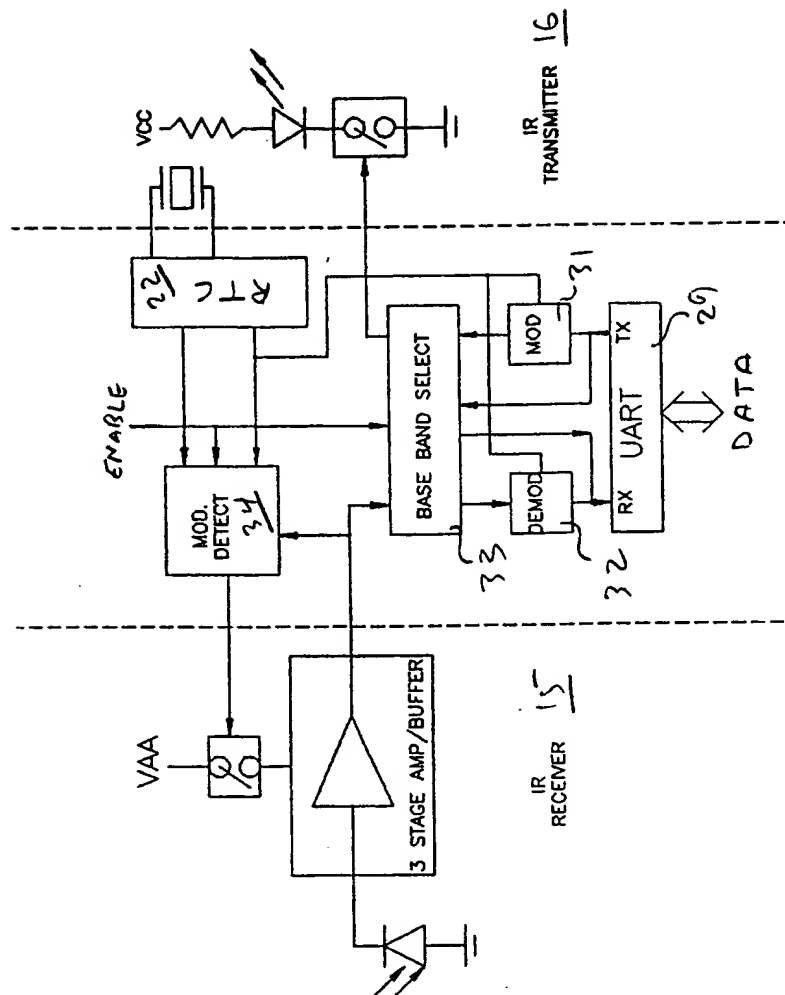


FIGURE 3

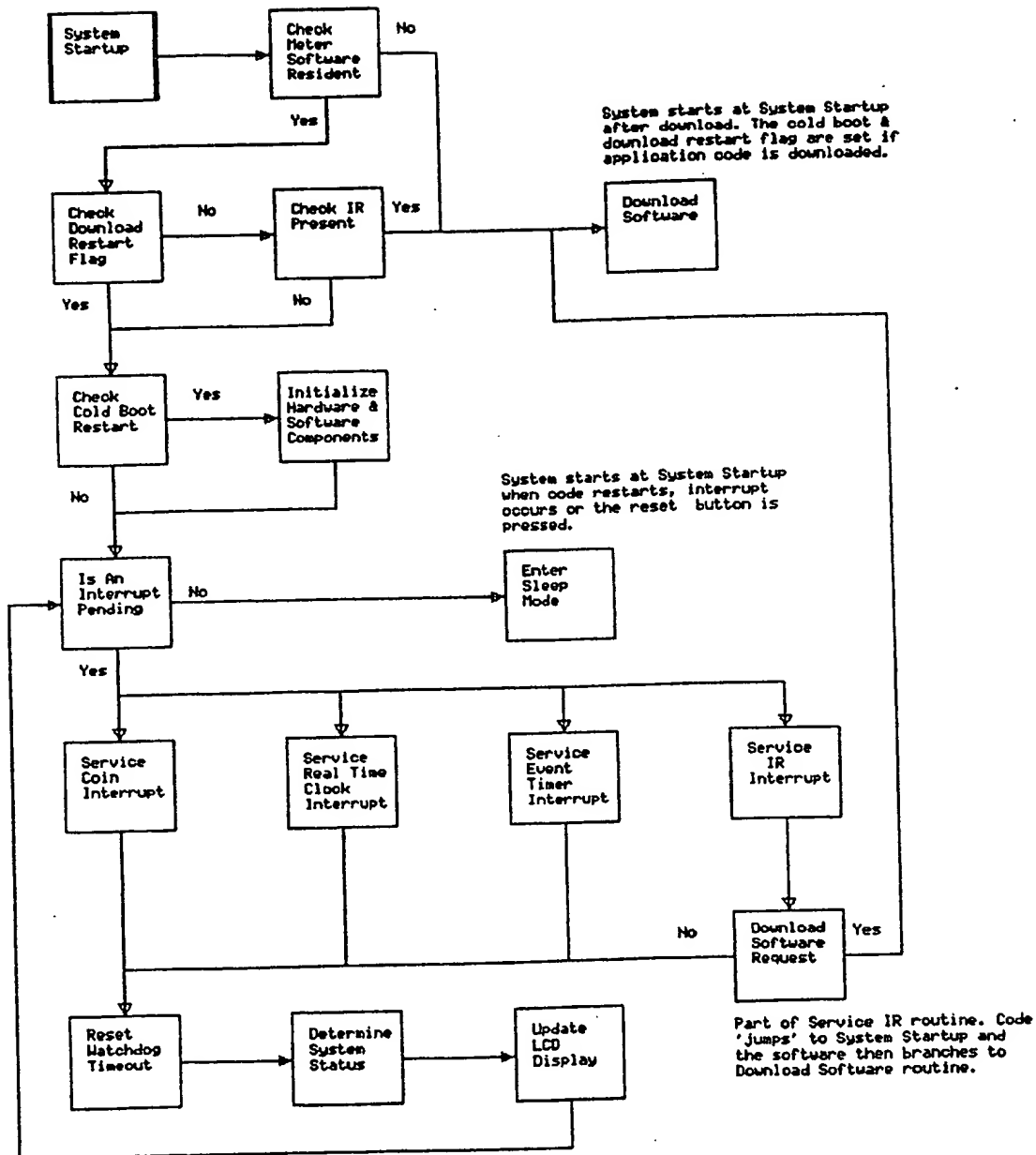


FIGURE 4

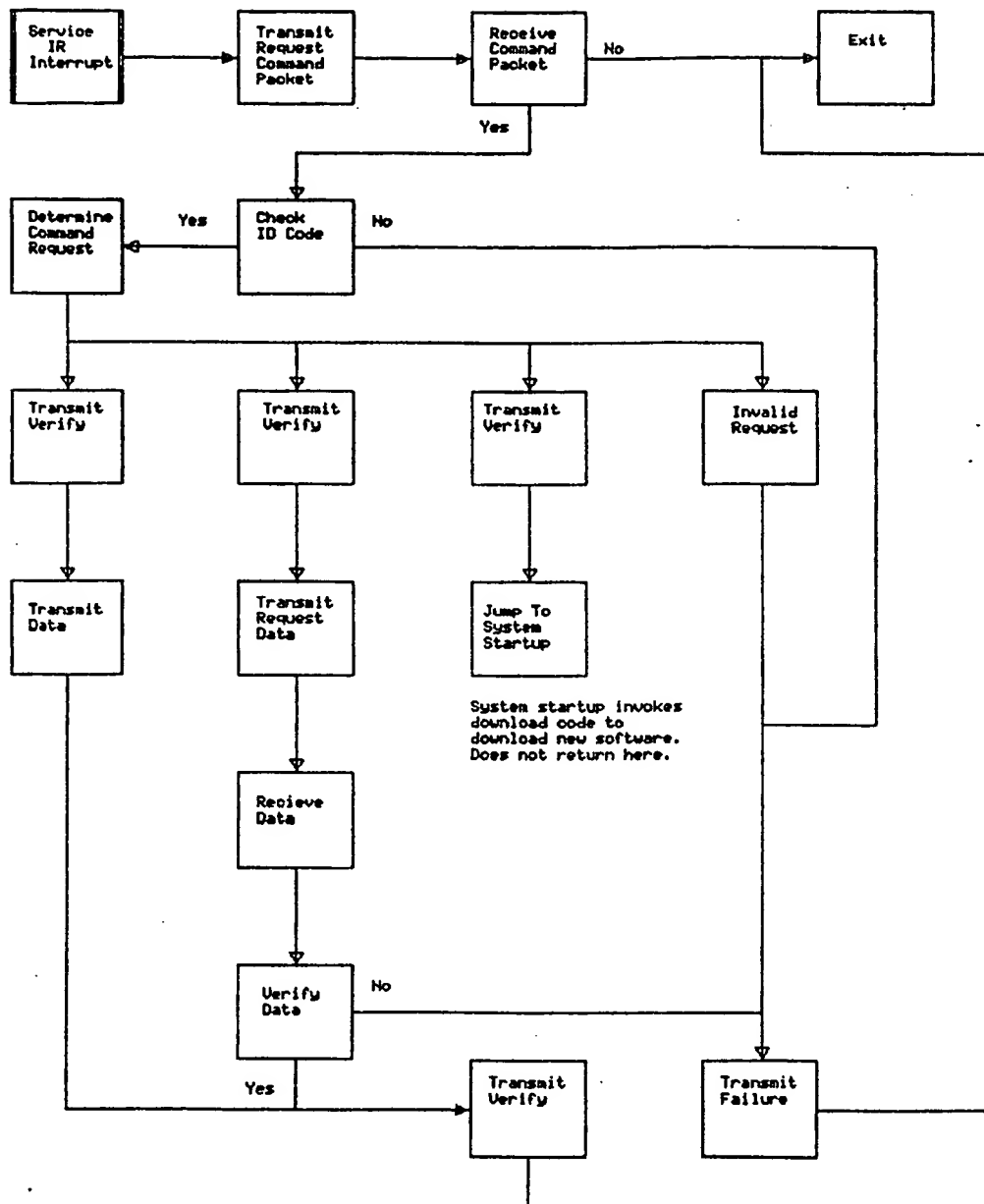


FIGURE 5

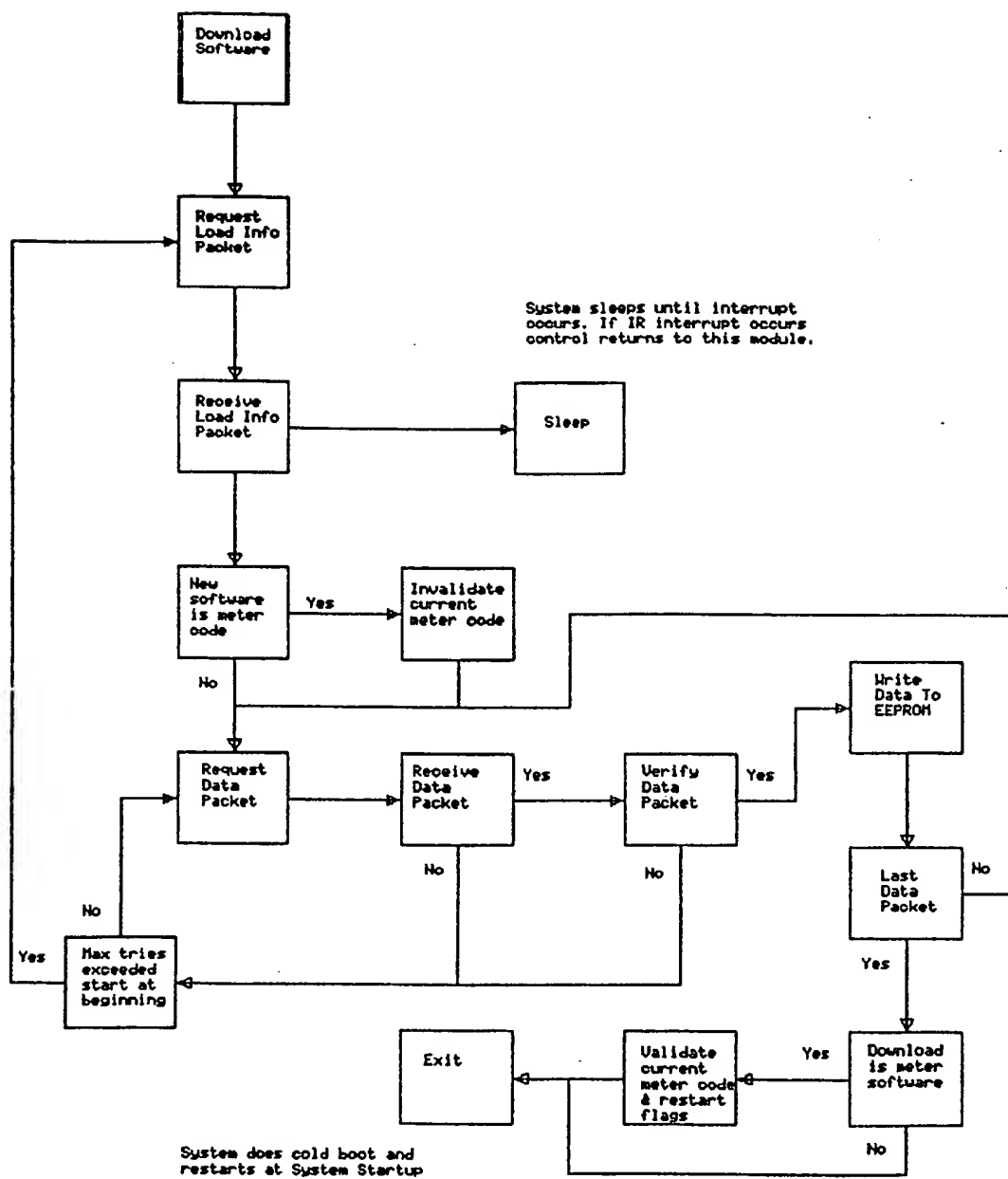


FIGURE 6